

COUNTRY Eastern Germany REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Military Information from the Altengrabow Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 26 August to 11 September 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 10 October 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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25X1 1. At 9 a.m. on 27 August 1952, a train with 18 light AA guns left the Altengrabow (M 53/Z 00) railroad station. One train each with the same load pulled out of the station at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. (1) At 11 a.m. on 3 September, a unit was quartered in six tents in the woods just south of the Doernitz-Rosenkrug road. Six rocket launchers, a field kitchen and soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen nearby. The unit broke camp on 11 September.

2. At 4 p.m. on 4 September, a train with 9 M-13 rocket launchers, 1 field kitchen, 4 trucks with ammunition boxes and troops with red-bordered black epaulets on 5 boxcars arrived at the Altengrabow railroad station. At 12 p.m. on 5 September, 15 M-13 rocket launchers, 12 trucks with ammunition boxes, and 1 field kitchen were unloaded at the Altengrabow railroad station by soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. At 4:30 p.m. on 8 September, a train with 20 M-13 rocket launchers, several trucks and troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets on 10 boxcars stood at the Altengrabow railroad station ready to pull out. The rocket launchers

25X1 25X1 (2) vehicular traffic in the camp area had considerably decreased. Troops practiced firing with rocket launchers an hour daily. About 200 trucks were lined up south of the bakery in the camp. (3)

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4. No Soviet shipments were observed at the Altengrabow railroad station on 4 September. At about 9 a.m., an ammunition convoy of 12 trucks

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moved along the road between Magdeburger Forth and Drewitz toward Altengrabow. At 11 a.m., 4 trucks, each occupied by 12 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and each truck towing a 57-mm AT gun

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passed through Doernitz. They were followed by 6 other trucks

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each occupied by 18 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying small arms.

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5. On 4 September, 6 trucks with billeting equipment entered the Nordlager at Altengrabow. Officers and EM entering and leaving the billeting area wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Troops practiced with 12 field guns of about 122 mm in the southeastern section of the camp. Twenty-four 122-mm field howitzers were lined up on the gun parking lot. Thirty other guns were parked under a wooden shed. About 100 trucks were lined up in the vicinity of the workshop

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6. On 4 September, from 30 to 40 trucks were parked near the filling station of the Altengrabow ammunition depot. No training activity was noticed.

7. On 4 September, the small hutment 4 km south of Grossbluebars quartered 60 to 80 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Officers also wore artillery insignia. A telephone line extended from there toward Altengrabow and further to the east.

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8. On 5 September, 3 x 122-mm field guns were at the Altengrabow railroad station ready to be loaded. Troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced with 2 x 85-mm AA guns about 200 meters north of Altengrabow. The guns were emplaced. Twenty other vacant emplacements for AA guns were noticed. The Nordlager at the Altengrabow troop training grounds quartered a unit who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Sentries with artillery insignia were noticed. The camp was occupied to capacity.

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Comments.

(1) Two of the three AAA shipments are believed to have previously been reported as going to Boetzow and Schoenwalde on 27 and 28 August 1952. Probably, elements of the 31st AAA Div moved to their posts.

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(2) It is believed that rocket launcher units of the Eighth Gds Army conducted short-term firing practices at Altengrabow. The unit unloaded on 4 September is probably identical with a unit of the 94th RL Regt (US) which, went from Eisenach to Altengrabow the same day. The elements loaded on 8 September presumably belong to the same regiment.

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(3) The units of the 6th Arty Div from Rathenow and Brandenburg, the 34th Arty Div (US), the army AT Arty brigade of the Third Shock Army and other artillery units of the army including troops from Burg and Magdeburg and of the 43d (Gds) Army Arty Brig can still be carried at the Altengrabow firing range.

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The decrease of training activity is possibly due to preparations for large-scale field exercises outside the troop training grounds. It cannot definitely be established whether artillery units of the Third Shock Army are permanently stationed at the Nordlager due to the presence there of other units engaged in training.

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